

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Tomohiro TAMAI et al.

Serial No.: 10/587,612

Group Art Unit: 2861

Date Filed: July 27, 2006

Examiner: Shih Wen Hsieh

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In order to ensure compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97(a)-(d), Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance, but before or concurrently with payment of the issue fee. A Notice of Allowance was issued March 25, 2008 in connection with the application. The issue fee is due June 25, 2008. Applicant has not yet paid the issue fee. Each reference listed in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for filing an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) is ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$180.00). The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge the \$180.00 fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

The references listed in the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in a April 16, 2008 search report in connection with a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the April 16, 2008 European search report is also enclosed herewith. Reference JP2000141704 cited in

the European search report was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 27, 2006 and therefore is not being listed on the Form PTO-1449 annexed hereto.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

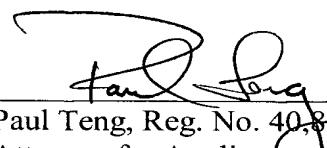
The citation of the listed item is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the item is prior art. The item listed is submitted in good faith, but is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular item, it will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, and to credit any overpayment during prosecution of this application, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2008


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